



June 2004



# HALE AHI NEWS

## HFD QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

April - June 2004

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

<i>From the Fire Chief</i>	2
<i>Retirees' Realm</i>	3
<i>HFD Family Fun Events</i>	3
<i>"This is Control..."</i>	4
<i>Commendations</i>	5
<i>Company Inspection Program</i>	6
<i>Fire Prevention</i>	7
<i>"At Scene, In Command"</i>	8
<i>Waikiki Volleyball</i>	9
<i>First Hawaiian Bank Event</i>	9
<i>Anniversaries, Promotions, Retirements, &amp; Last Alarm</i>	10
<i>Civilian Corner</i>	10

### IMPORTANT DATES

- Monday, July 5, 2004  
Independence Day (Observed)
- Saturday, August 7, 2004  
Firemen's Fund Annual Picnic  
Kalama Beach Club, Kailua  
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Friday, August 20, 2004  
Admission Day
- MDA-Fill the Boot Events  
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
  - \* Friday, Sept. 3, 2004  
Tamarind Park
  - \* Saturday, Sept. 4, 2004  
Windward City Shopping Center
  - \* Sunday, Sept. 5, 2004  
Leeward Shopping Center
- Monday, September 6, 2004  
Labor Day
- Friday, Sept. 10, 2004  
HFD Retirees Association  
Quarterly Meeting  
Training Center  
9:30 a.m.

## INTERNATIONAL FIRE SERVICE ACCREDITATION CONGRESS OVERVIEW

By Fire Fighter III Rick Karasaki Jr.

In 1998, the Honolulu Fire Commission appointed Attilio K. Leonardi as the Fire Chief of the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD). Chief Leonardi and his staff set several important long range goals, one being to professionalize the Department by having its members meet national standards. To accomplish this goal, Chief Leonardi decided to validate the fire fighting skills of the individual members through a national fire fighter certification program.

In April 2000, the HFD submitted an application to become a voting member of the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC), an internationally recognized member-based, peer-driven, self-governing organization, which accredits fire department certification programs worldwide.

After becoming a voting member, the HFD made a commitment to develop testing and training programs that met IFSAC requirements for fire fighter certification. One of the requirements called for the HFD to certify fire fighters to a minimum of one level of training as described in the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) Job Performance Requirements within five years of the application submittal date, April 2000. The HFD fulfilled this IFSAC requirement in 2004, one year ahead of schedule with not one but two certification levels.

On April 24, 2004, Assistant Chief Kenneth Silva and Fire Fighter III Rick Karasaki attended IFSAC's annual conference in Oklahoma City. On behalf of the HFD, they received the Department's initial accreditation. Today, the HFD is the only fire service agency in the State of Hawaii empowered to certify and administer the IFSAC seal of approval for fire fighter certification training.



Left to right: Rich Hall, IFSAC Manager, Assistant Chief Ken Silva, Fire Fighter III Rick Karasaki, Tim Bradley, IFSAC Certificate Assembly Chairperson.

This certification validates that the HFD is meeting nationally recognized industry standards and assures the community that fire fighters are meeting all required professional qualifications when performing their duties. Although the HFD has always met or exceeded national fire fighting performance standards, the IFSAC process provides the Department with a nationally recognized, independent, third party evaluation system, which lends credibility and integrity to the entire HFD fire fighter training process.

Currently, the HFD is authorized to certify training for two basic fire fighting levels--Fire Fighter I and Hazardous Materials Awareness. It has also developed a new five-year timeline to identify additional levels of training that will meet IFSAC certification requirements. These levels include journey-level fire fighting, fire communications, Fire Inspectors, Fire Service Instructors, and Fire Officer certification training.

Meeting national fire fighting standards and allowing third party evaluation of HFD training programs by the IFSAC benefits everyone, fire fighters and the community.





**PRIDE, SERVICE,  
DEDICATION**

**Honolulu Fire Department  
Attilio K. Leonardi, Fire Chief  
3375 Koapaka St., Ste. H425  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819-1869**

**Hale Ahi News  
haleahinews@co.honolulu.hi.us**

**Editors:  
AC Wayne Nojiri  
831-7776  
wnojiri@co.honolulu.hi.us**

**BC Eric L. Adams Jr.  
682-0534  
eadams@co.honolulu.hi.us**

**Julie Ono  
831-7740  
jono@co.honolulu.hi.us**

## **Mission Statement**

The mission of the Honolulu Fire Department is to respond to fires, emergency medical incidents, hazardous materials incidents, and rescues on land and sea to save lives, property, and the environment. We accomplish this mission by:

- Promoting safety and maintaining a well equipped, highly trained, and motivated force of professional fire fighters and rescue personnel.
- Promoting fire prevention and other public safety education programs.

## **Vision Statement**

The Honolulu Fire Department will continuously strive to meet the changing needs of our community by providing a modern and technologically advanced department. We will do this by maintaining a high level of readiness and by focusing on the professional development and training of all our personnel.

# **FROM THE FIRE CHIEF ...**

**I**t has been a hectic and stressful quarter with the City's fiscal year coming to a close. We had to ensure that funds were available to complete and pay for ongoing programs, current expenses, and equipment purchases. Once again, our administrative and bureau personnel did an exceptional job in complying with the numerous budget restrictions and requirements that were placed on all City agencies.

With Mayor Jeremy Harris and the City Council's support, the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) did considerably well with our upcoming fiscal year 2004-2005 budget. For the 10<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, we have been able to successfully justify having our budget increased, as compared to other City



agencies that have had their budgets slashed drastically. Our operating budget will increase by 5.4% to \$68,542,647, the increase due mainly to collective bargaining pay increases and additional funding to continue with the pilot rank-for-rank program. Our capital improvement budget was approved at just over \$7.8 million. We were able to secure funding to replace the McCully Fire Station, to purchase two new engines, to

purchase property to relocate the Hauula Fire Station, and to look for a new site to relocate the Waiialua Fire Station. We also received over \$1 million to do much needed station repairs and additional funding to furnish the new Headquarters.

Our new budget will allow the HFD to continue to provide the quality service we now provide. We receive many letters from the community acknowledging and commending the efforts of our personnel. Chief Officers, Company Commanders, fire fighters, and civilian staff continue to demonstrate that the Honolulu Fire Department goes above and beyond the call of duty, a true example of Pride, Service, Dedication. Keep up the good work!

## **Momilani Elementary Achieves 98%**



At a ceremony on May 14, Chief Leonardi recognized Momilani Elementary School for achieving a 98% student participation with the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Hawaii Fire Fighters' Safety and Health Guide (FFSHG) Program. They had the highest participation of all schools on the island of Oahu with the completion and submission of their FFSHG's.

Student Jonathan Otsuka and Mrs. Nashiro's second grade class were honored as the grand prizewinners in this year's program.



## RETIREES' REALM

**Medicare-Approved Drug Discount Card:** A Federal law has established the Federal Medicare Drug Discount Card program with many options for individual care. Each person must choose the options that best suit their individual needs. More information can be obtained from the following websites: [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) or [www.aarp.org](http://www.aarp.org). For those that do not have access to a computer, Hawaii State libraries have computers for public use.

**Legislative Update:** The 23<sup>rd</sup> Legislative Session of 2004 was not a good year for retirees living on a fixed income; (taxes, user fees, funding for other State programs, etc.) It is recommended that retirees review their respective legislator's voting record regarding bills that may have had an impact on our State. Make your voices heard by the use of your vote during this election year!

**Legislative Process:** A legislator submits a proposed bill for adoption through his/her respective Legislative branch, and if passed, the adopted bill is submitted to the Governor's Office for signature. If signed by the Governor, the bill becomes law. If the Governor vetoes the bill, the Legislators may "override" the veto to make the bill a law. If the Governor does not sign or veto the bill, it automatically becomes law after 45 days.

### Bills Affecting Retirees:

1. HB1616:	Relating to Long-Term Care	<b>Did Not Pass</b>
2. HB2005:	Relating to Prescription Drugs	<b>Submitted to Governor</b>
3. HB2414:	Relating to Dental Insurance	<b>Act 30*</b>
4. HB2558:	Relating to Pension Plans	<b>Act 34*</b>
5. SB0762:	Relating to the Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund	<b>Did Not Pass</b>
6. SB1399:	Relating to a Long-Term Care Tax Credit	<b>Did Not Pass</b>
7. SB2589:	Relating to Health Insurance	<b>Act 27*</b>
8. SB2878:	Relating to the Federal Tax Limit on Compensation Applicable to the Employees' Retirement System	<b>Submitted to Governor</b>
9. SB2879:	Relating to the Federal Tax Qualification of the Employees' Retirement System	<b>Act 69*</b>
10. SB2929:	Relating to Medicaid Reimbursement	<b>Submitted to Governor</b>
11. SB2950:	Relating to Generic Drugs	<b>Act 28*</b>
12. SB3237:	Relating to Prescription Drugs	<b>Act 47*</b>

### **\* All acts have become laws**

The Governor has until July 13, 2004, to sign or veto bills. You may access information on these bills at: [www.capitol.hawaii.gov](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov) (select Bill Status and Docs).

**Employer-Union Trust Fund:** For benefit information, contact: Oahu: 586-7390, Toll Free: 1-800-295-0089, Email: [eutf@hawaii.gov](mailto:eutf@hawaii.gov), or visit the website at [www.eutf.hawaii.gov](http://www.eutf.hawaii.gov).

**Medicare Plan "B":** Retirees who reach the age of 65 are reminded that they must enroll in the Medicare Plan B. For more information, check out the website at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov).

**HFD Retirees Association Meetings:** The dates for upcoming quarterly meetings are as follows: September 10 and December 10. All meetings will be held at 9:30 a.m. at the HFD Training Center.

All members and new retirees and their spouses are welcome to attend the meetings to receive updated information and socialize with fellow fire fighters. Annual dues are \$5.

**HFD Retirees Association:** Contact retired Fire Chief Donald Chang at (808) 487-8862.

## HFD FAMILY FUN EVENTS

By Fire Captain Socrates Bratakos

Hey, HFD family, it's summertime again. Along with the awesome weather comes the opportunity to get together with co-workers, family, and friends at one of our HFD family fun events. Okay, so what is an HFD family fun event? The answer depends on you. We have softball, volleyball, and fishing tournaments, holiday meals at the fire stations, and an annual Credit Union dinner. However, one of the best ways to involve spouses, children, and friends is at a summer picnic preferably involving some kind of water fun.

HFD looks forward to a couple of large events every summer. The first is the Fireman's Fund picnic held for the past 10 years at the Kalama Beach Club in Kailua. This annual picnic, which has been held for more than 20 years, is scheduled for August 7, 2004. HFD members and their families are welcome to come catch a tan, catch some waves, and catch a plate of great barbecued food.

The second event occurs in September or October at the Hawaiian Waters Adventure Park in Kapolei. Hundreds of fire fighters, civilian employees, wives, husbands, children, and friends spend the entire day at the park's attractions, swimming, sliding, eating, and enjoying each other's company. This tradition is three years old and will hopefully continue for many years to come.

There are many smaller versions of these summer fun events going on. Some battalions or stations will organize parties at the beach for their crews and families. These usually involve water sports like boogie boarding or kayaking, games for the kids and adults, and lots of great food for all. It is an excellent opportunity for families to get to know "uncles" and "aunts" from the fire station. At a fun event, the pressure is off, there is no anticipation of an alarm, and everyone can relax. You might even find yourself talking to that Captain or Chief and discover that the two of you have something in common after all!

This author remembers an especially fun battalion picnic held several years ago at Kualoa Beach Park across from Chinaman's Hat on the windward side of the island. There was a squid tournament, tough volleyball games, games for the kids, and way too much hot dogs, hamburgers, mac salad, and cake.

But, the most memorable event was an epic tug-of-war challenge between the under-forty and over-forty men. There were about nine or ten team members on each side. The challenge began and immediately went into a deadlock for about five minutes. Eventually, the under-forty team won and everyone had sore muscles for the next two or three days. That was some tug-of-war!

Hopefully, this story will encourage you to take part in one of these events or even motivate you to plan one for your group. It's a lot of fun and a great way to spend quality time with your both of your families - the one from home and the other from HFD. Enjoy the summer, be safe, and have fun!





## RECIPES

This is the second of four recipes selected to represent Hawaii fire fighters in a nationally distributed cookbook.

### Baked Tofu Loaf

(Meatless)

**FF III Geoff Shon**

#### 2 (21 oz.) Firm Tofu

(mashed and squeezed to remove most of the water)

#### 1 Bunch Green Onions

(finely chopped)

#### 2 Carrots, grated

#### 2 Cans Water Chestnuts, chopped

#### 2 oz. Dried Shiitake Mushroom

(soaked and finely chopped)

#### 6 Eggs, beaten

#### 1-1/2 Cups Best Food Mayonnaise

#### Salt and Pepper to taste

#### 2 Small Cans Cream of Mushroom Soup

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Combine all ingredients except the mushroom soup. Mix well. Pour into a 9" X 13" pan and bake on middle rack for 1 hour and 20 minutes or until golden brown on top.

Warm the two cans of cream of mushroom soup on stove (do not dilute) and spread evenly over the top of the loaf. Cut into pieces and enjoy!

Please send recipes to [eadams@co.honolulu.hi.us](mailto:eadams@co.honolulu.hi.us)



## *"This Is Control..." Fire Communication Center*

### *Battalion Chief Edward Simeona*

#### 911 calls:

To date the HFD has responded to:

- 2,167 Fires
- 9,360 Medical
- 1,696 Medical returned enroute
- 299 Rescues
- 1,004 Hazardous Material
- 758 Service Calls
- 7 others

In relation to the above data, FCC personnel received and/or fielded the emergency 911 calls listed below:

- 4,400+ in January
- 3,500+ in February
- 3,500+ in March
- 3,300+ in April
- 3,400+ in May

#### Hawaii USAR Task Force:

A Memorandum of Agreement will soon be signed by the Mayor, which will officially approve the City's participation in the Urban Search and Rescue Task Force in Hawaii.

Created by the State Civil Defense Agency, this group includes members of the HFD along with representatives from Kauai, Maui, And Hawaii Counties. The task force is now 85 members strong with volunteers from various sectors in the public workforce throughout the State. At this time, there are approximately 15 members on the task force from HFD who are part of the rescue component as well as the hazmat and communications teams. Although trained to a medium rescue capability, members will be equipped and trained by the State and hope to eventually become nationally recognized as a Federal Emergency Management Agency task force. The group will be called

upon if Hawaii should suffer any type of structural collapse due to terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, natural disaster, or by any other means and will be responsible to search for, stabilize, rescue, or recover anyone trapped in the collapse. Although there is a long road ahead, the team is very proud that it is finally on its way to becoming an officially recognized entity.



#### FCC Personnel:

Featured this quarter is FF3 Geoffrey Shon. Geoff was appointed to the Honolulu Fire Department on February 1, 1983, and came to the FCC as a newly promoted FF2 on June 21, 1998, and has been here ever since. On December 5, 1999, he was promoted to his present position of FF3. His years of dedicated service at our bureau have made him a very important asset for us. His knowledge of the entire system allows the FCC to get many repairs and/or system maintenance completed during his work shift. He is also a great resource for everyone who works at the FCC. He, along with his wife, Jennifer, and their two daughters enjoy living in Kaneohe.



## COMMENDATIONS

**The HFD receives many letters of appreciation and commendation recognizing various Fire Fighters/ Companies. The HAN will print excerpts from these letters where personnel went above and beyond the call of duty.**

Mr. James Di Giambattista thanked the men of Engine and Ladder 5 for assisting him on March 1, 2004, after high winds and rain blew off the roof of his home. Because of their quick action and high level of preparedness, the home did not sustain any interior damage.

Albert and Han Calamug commended Captain David Delacruz and Fire Fighters Conrad Nakamoto, Sebastian Sheldon, and Dyron Ota of Ladder 7/1 for "...performing their duties in a highly professional and exemplary manner. Their genuine care and concern for our family were further evident as they helped to create and maintain an atmosphere that was respectful and considerate..."

The Benson Family of Mililani sent a heartfelt thank you" to Chief Paul Loughran, Battalion 5/2, Engine 16/2, Rescue 2/2, and Air 1 for assisting them safely out of the hills of Wahiawa on May 9, 2004. They wrote, "We know that this is what you all are trained to do but we were very impressed with your response, persistence, and care in helping us."

Mr. Robert Spicer, an 85-year old Clark Hatch Fitness Center member for over 25 years, was involved in a hiking incident in Manoa Valley on May 23, 2004. He wrote a letter of praise for the rescue crews who airlifted him from the Manoa Cliffs Trail. "Throughout this activity they were pleasant, friendly and efficient. It's good to know that the people of Honolulu have such a well trained cadre of personnel always on duty!"

On June 1, 2004, Mrs. Jean Ogata needed assistance while grocery shopping. Luckily, Captain Lester Hashimoto and the crew of Engine 2/2 were on the scene. She wrote, "The patience and concern for another in need has given me another point of view of these firemen. You should be very proud of them."

Coralie Chun Matayoshi, CEO, and Jill Becker, Director of Financial Development, of the American Red Cross thanked the Department for supporting their recent "Hats Off to Red Cross" event. They wrote, "The generosity of your fire-fighters contributing their time to help raise over \$20,000 for the Red Cross. Your support made all the difference!"

## NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

By Fire Captain Socrates Bratakos

The HFD has formally adopted the National Incident Management System (NIMS). The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) was directed by President Bush to develop and administer the NIMS. The directive also requires State and local agencies to adopt the NIMS as a condition for receiving Federal grant funds beginning in 2005. In the last two years, the HFD has received over \$6 million from the DHS.

The NIMS will appear very familiar to those in the fire service because it is derived from the Incident Command System developed and taught at the National Fire Academy. Built on existing incident management and emergency response systems, it integrates practices best used by jurisdictions and functional disciplines at all levels, nationwide.

Much emphasis is placed on the Unified Command System, which provides a single set of objectives, a collective approach to developing strategies, improved coordination between agencies, joint understanding of priorities and restrictions, and optimizing combined efforts under a single incident action plan.

Adoption of the NIMS is included in the new HFD procedures and future incident command training will also incorporate the NIMS. As HFD continues preparedness for all hazards while working with local, State, and Federal agencies, the NIMS will increasingly be used in training classes, exercises, and emergency events.



## COMPANY INSPECTION PROGRAM MANUAL TRAINING DVD

By Fire Captain Jason Takara

As the updated Company Inspection Program Manual is being finalized the Fire Prevention Bureau had to design method of training for the members in Operations that would be both effective and efficient. As we all know, centralized training has a tremendous impact on one of our most precious resources -- manpower. Not only in the way of students, but also in the number of instructors required. After serious brainstorming, the bureau came up with a solution: decentralized training utilizing a multimedia medium or DVD.

This great concept led us to another obstacle. How could we produce a \$40,000 DVD with a nonexistent budget? Without the proper equipment or training, we needed to think out-of-the-box to find a solution. Luckily, the answer was simple. We turned to our friends in the community. My classmate, Mark Miyamoto, an English and multimedia teacher at Washington Middle School, was more than happy to assist us with our project.

Mark was willing to loan us the equipment required to capture the raw footage and narration and offered to provide students to assist in editing and the creation of the DVD. Once this commitment was secured, Assistant Chief Ken Silva and Battalion Chief Lloyd Rogers gave us the green light to begin production.

After weeks of gathering information, script writing, and story boarding the DVD, production commenced. Fire Fighter 2 Jennifer Davis provided the narration, and Fire Captains Matthew Zane and William Melemai III assisted with the videotaping. A team of three students, Alyssa Buote and Ruby Ching (grade seven) and Rosaleen Nguyen (grade eight), created the Company Inspection Program Manual Training DVD. As of this writing, the DVD was reviewed by the Fire Prevention Bureau and has been forwarded to the Fire Chief for approval.

When viewing this DVD and learning all of the nuances of fire inspections, please recognize this as a great example of the community and HFD working together!



Left to Right: Alyssa Buote, Rose Nguyen, and Ruby Ching

**MAHALO** and aloha to Palani Tulewa-



Gibbs for his assistance with the Hale Ahi News (HAN). His smiling face and willing attitude will be sorely missed. The HAN would like to also thank Garret Maeda and Ping Chang for their technical support, and to the gang at FCC for always lending a hand to assemble the HAN. Great teamwork!!!

Volunteers for various writing, editing, and formatting tasks involved in the production of the HAN are always needed. To get involved or for more information, email, write, or call the editorial staff.



# FIRE PREVENTION - DON'T STALL - CALL 911

BATTALION CHIEF LLOYD ROGERS

## Youth Firesetter Program

The HFD's Youth Firesetter Program seeks to reduce the incidence of fires set by youth ages 17 and under. The program has made steady progress since our initial seminar in June 2003, thanks to the efforts of our volunteers, both at the FPB and in Operations. Captain William Beimes and FF3 Brett Lomont have been the key players in establishing agency relationships, forms, and educational resource kits.

A meeting on April 23, 2004, brought together team members to review accomplishments and plan goals for the future. Members who shared their personal experiences enhanced the meeting.

Captain Curtis Mayural and FF1 Kaimi Pelekai, Q26/2, told of their encounter with a youth identified as a firesetter. Their initial meeting involved the youth and grandparents, fire safety educational materials, and homework assignments. More importantly, the meeting displayed that these

HFD members cared and dared to make a difference. A follow-up meeting showed positive results. The youth has not been involved in any further fire incidents and his grades and attitude have also improved.

Although many details of the program need to be finalized, the initial results have been very encouraging. Along with Kaimi and Curtis, Operations team members include Captains Doug Latham (L30/2) and Dwayne Lee (L17/1), FF3s Jarin Wong (E3/3), Jimon You Jr. (E27/2), Brett Lomont (E23/3),

Ricky Amano (E23/1), FF2s Jennifer Davis (HM1/3), Anthony Hart (L7/2), FF1s Craig Souza (E3/2), Kiana Ugalde (L12/1), William Kearsley (L29/1), and Kainoa Asato (E41/1). FPB members include Captain Glenn Solem, FF3s Teri Bumanglag, Dean Hakikawa, Clay Madrona, Warren Iseke, and Brian Zablan.



## Fire Prevention Personnel Profile-Fire Captain Carl Lorenzo by Fire Captain William Melemai III

Every organization needs good people to get the job done. The Fire Prevention Bureau is no different and is fortunate to have dedicated personnel with the training and experience required to meet the fire inspection and safety education needs of the community.

Captain Carl Lorenzo is an outstanding example of such an individual. After graduating from McKinley High School, Carl completed a tour of duty with the Air Force and attended Leeward Community College on the G.I. Bill. His father served as a Federal Fire Fighter and was influential in getting him to join the fire service.

Carl began his career in the Honolulu



way and a high-rise structure fire on Kinau Street, which started in the evening and burned till the next day.

He has 20 years of service at the Fire Pre-

vention Bureau and currently oversees all code inspections on the western section of the island. He also has extensive experience in conducting fire inspection training for company personnel and fire recruits. He credits Battalion Chiefs Hank Sur and Danny Mahiko as well as Captains Roland Coelho and Clifford Koyanagi for helping him to develop his fire fighting and leadership skills.

Captain Lorenzo is an avid sportsman and enjoys watching his favorite football, basketball, and baseball teams. He also participates in the HFD basketball and softball league. He and his wife, Charlene, enjoy spending time with their son, Carl Jr., a Navy Seabee and daughter, Cicely, a recent college graduate.

## Police Week 3rd Annual Karaoke Challenge *Battalion Chief Ed Simeona*

The HFD was once again invited to participate in the Police Week Annual Karaoke Challenge held in the courtyard of HPD's main headquarters on South Beretania Street. This year, the weather was perfect for singing under the stars and the HFD was well represented by FF3 Jarin Wong from E3/3, FF3 Lopaka Hoopii from L18/1, and Captain Dwayne Lee from L17/1.

This year's theme was "Cherish the Family," with the emphasis on remembering our loved ones who have recently been sent to active duty. There were a total of eight contestants, three from HPD, three from HFD, and two from the Police Explorer Scouts. The four judges were Damien Freitas from HPD, Keoki Kerr from KITV, Ron Nomura, an ex-UH baseball coach, and me.

The HFD can be proud of our three contestants, Jarin, Lopaka, and

Dwayne, as they all performed their songs with much feeling and professionalism. When the scores were tallied, the results were as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Captain Dwayne Lee of HFD, Ladder 17, 1<sup>st</sup> platoon
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Lieutenant Robert Cravalho of the HPD Communications Center
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Officer Dawnelyn Lavarias of the HPD Training Center

Congratulations to Captain Lee on his winning performance and mahalo to Jarin and Lopaka for their participation and efforts. Everyone had a great time as this event was done in the spirit of fun and fellowship between our agencies. Keep your eyes and ears open and sign up early for next year's contest to be one of HFD's representatives at this great event. Be Safe. Aloha.....



## “At Scene, In Command”

by Fire Captain Jerry Spencer

**This is Fire Captain Jerry Spencer's fifth article in a series of interviews of the Executive Staff of the Honolulu Fire Department. The purpose of his project is to acquaint readers with the Chief Officers that guide the HFD.**

**HAN:** Chief Silva, can you give us a background of where you grew up and the schools you attended?

**Fire 5:** I grew up in Pearl City. My family is from Waianae. My mom is from Ma'ili and my dad from Makaha. I spent a lot of time in that area living with my grandparents from time to time and with my family in Pearl City. My fondest memories are growing up on the Leeward side. I attended Kamehameha School from kindergarten right through graduation in 1978, junior college in California for two years, then on to the University of Hawaii. My degree is in Business and my master's degree is in Public Administration. Like most fire fighters, I worked part-time. I started on my masters early but left the program with just two classes to complete. There was a large time span before I went back to finish up.

What is interesting is that after high school I went straight to junior college but also wanted to take the fire department test. The test was scheduled two weeks after my return to school on the mainland. And like most families, we barely had enough money to send me to school let alone bring me home for an extra trip just to take the test. My mom, who was a waitress at that time, knew I wanted to take the test so she saved her tips to buy me a plane ticket. I flew home; stayed with a friend, took the test, then flew back to California. My dad never knew. So, if it weren't for my mom I might not have come into the fire department.

And you know it's amazing that all the old-timers at the time told me to enjoy it because it goes by really fast. And in your early years you don't really think about it. But now, looking back after 22 years, it flew by in a heartbeat. I've been exposed to many kinds of careers and a lot of different people, but if I had to do it all over again, I wouldn't change a thing.

The fire service isn't for everyone but if you are suited for it, there isn't a more



Assistant Chief Kenneth Silva

rewarding career. You won't be rich but you will be able to feed your family and educate them. You will also have time to do other things, whether it's employment, coaching, or spending time with family. And, you'll have the opportunity to help the community with what you do on a daily basis.

**HAN:** What made you decide to enter the Department?

**Fire 5:** I didn't have a burning desire but my friend's dad was in the Department and at the time it seemed like an interesting job. I wanted to see if I could pass the test, get on the list, and do everything else. So, I kind of backed into it. It was available and I got in. I feel very fortunate for that.

**HAN:** What was your first assignment?

**Fire 5:** Waipahu, which was a great experience. My first Captain was Ram Kealoha and Waipahu was a busy station. We supported the West side on brush fires and runs to Ewa Beach. We also had our share of sugar cane fires, dump fires, and fires in the housing area. The bulk of my career was in the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion; Waipahu, Pearl City, Ewa Beach, and Makakilo. I went into the Prevention Bureau as a Fire Fighter 3 and then went back out to Waipahu.

When Ladder 26 opened up, they had no

crew. I lived in Waianae at the time and was transferred there as acting Captain for two years. Some of my best times were at Station 26. No matter how much work there is, if you have a good crew and there is good harmony, it's always good. I made Captain and stayed there until I was promoted to BC to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion. That was a change for me. I didn't know the area or the personnel. But I had two good Captains at Station 17: Stanley Sholtz and John Leong (now BC John Leong of the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion). They guided me in what I needed to know about the battalion and I'll always be grateful for that.

**HAN:** What has been the most memorable event in your career?

**Fire 5:** Without a doubt it was the Sacred Falls incident. The nature of the incident, the complexity of the situation, the challenges that we faced, the personnel involved, the death, the amount of injuries we had, and all the things related to that (incident).

There were shows I did for the Learning Channel and Discovery Channel relating to that incident. I had to re-live the incident a lot and it got to a point where I didn't want to talk about it anymore. But I still think about it and in an odd way I feel very fortunate to have been there as the Incident Commander. How often in your career do you get to be at an incident of that magnitude and be in charge?

I felt privileged. I felt I had adequate training and good personnel. I thought the plan we had established worked well. We couldn't have made a difference in the tragedy of events but we did the best we could do at the time. We learned a lot from that incident like taking personnel off-line after being exposed to mass trauma over an extended period of time.

**HAN:** If you were to leave a legacy to the Department, what would it be?

**Fire 5:** Well, that's kind of a hard question. I find myself on two sides of the Department. Here I am and time went by



## At Scene, In Command

—continued

so fast. I used to say, “that’s the old-timers.” Now, I have one foot on the old-timers’ side and one foot on the other side where I’m still active in a lot of things.

The idea of a legacy I don’t really know. I would say there are a lot of things that are beyond our control and a few things we have control over. We have control over ourselves, how we think, how we behave, and our attitude. When we wake up everyday we can choose to be a certain way. We can choose to be negative, we can choose to be positive, we can choose to make a difference, or we can choose to be status quo. That’s difficult in any job but especially in the fire service. When you make that decision you hope your legacy will show that you made the right choice. So, when people think about you they think--this guy was a positive influence on my career, or the fire department or whatever, for many reasons. I learned from him or I learned from his attitude. Hopefully, people will feel you lived what you preached. The hardest thing to do is to live the example. That’s what I hope people will think

about me.

**HAN:** If there was an important message you would convey to the men and women of this department, what would it be?

**Fire 5:** The fire service in Hawaii and nationwide is changing the way we do business. This change is being impacted by a lot of things, 9-11 was one. The world we live in is different. We are not just a fire department anymore. We are an all-hazard department. We embrace a lot of different disciplines that require training and skills that we did not have to possess in the past. The idea of just learning your job is out the window. Every day we face new challenges--WMD, terroristic events, hazmat, and increased medical knowledge. Yet, our core is still fighting fires where we have a lot more to deal with. We have plastics, high-rise buildings, and all of these different challenges that we didn’t have to face in the past. A tremendous density in an urban area like Honolulu.

We are also dealing with a different mindset. Managers who have been in the Department for a long time cannot lock into our way of thinking by saying, “We never used to do it that way, or that’s how we were raised.” People coming into the De-

partment have different attitudes, opinions, and values on how things should be done. And that’s not necessarily bad. What we need to do is understand it because if we don’t, we are going to be bucking all the time. For a manager, that’s one of the most difficult things.

There are things that we learned when we came in that were good and we need to teach those coming in now. A sense of camaraderie, pride, and service, going beyond what your requirements are without having to be told. These old work ethics should be continued.

We are living in different times and it requires a lot more from us. We went from just fire fighters to professional fire fighters. And to make that leap there are a lot of things on the way. Certification, education, and training all have to be embraced. The stress that is put upon the fire fighter recruit is tremendous. They have to score high on the test, pass the CPAT, and go through an interview. Once they get to the class, they are tested every day. They are judged cognitively, physically, and on their attitude. It’s a rough thing.

The product that is produced from the recruit class now is superior. My hat is off to those who survive the training.

## Waikiki Station Annual Volleyball Tournament

By Fire Fighter III John Collins Jr.

On Saturday, April 24, the Waikiki Fire Station hosted another successful volleyball tournament, which was enjoyed by all. Twenty-six teams representing their battalions and stations in both A & B brackets competed in the all day tournament. Both the competitors and family members enjoyed the great food, raffle prizes, tournament shirts, and a bouncer for the keiki.

Congratulations to Station 21/3 (Walter Rosehill, Mark and Josh Yeager, Joseph Estrera Jr., Harold Meheula Jr., and (Paul) Doah-Hyun Myung) for capturing the A division and to Station 34/3 (Jon Dean, Craig Ishikawa, Ricardo Yost, and Kory Chock-EMS) for capturing the B division. Each team’s name will be placed on the perpetual trophy for winning their respective division. They will have the task of defending their trophy at next year’s tournament.

A special thanks goes out to all who participated and contributed to this event including: Station 7/2 and 7/1 personnel, the HFD Athletic Association, the HFFA, “Kaholo” Faulkner for screening the shirts, and family and friends for once again organizing a fun-filled, successful day!

## First Hawaiian Bank Climb To The Top

by Fire Captain Kenison Tejada

Mahalo to the 17 HFD runners who participated in the Police-Fire Challenge at the annual First Hawaiian Bank’s YES Climb to the Top held on April 13. Our representatives looked great in HFD t-shirts and baseball caps!

Congratulations to Fire Fighter Keith Daniel, E3/1, for setting a new course record. He finished the 651-step course in 3:45 minutes, followed by Fire Fighter Russell Youth (4:09) and Captain Jay Kemmler (4:19). By virtue of his first place finish and winning time, Keith qualifies for the Empire State Building Run Up. Race promoters, First Hawaiian Bank, the HFD and the HFFA are looking into a joint sponsorship to send him to New York for the competition.

Also impressive were Captain Roger Goodell, Fire Fighter III Charles Griep, Fire Fighter Is Anthony Sabatini and Isaac Raphael who completed the course in full turnouts and SCBA! They showed spectators just how hard our jobs can be.

Mahalo to the crew of Engine 1/1 for providing medical monitoring and for everyone who participated and assisted in this great event.





## ANNIVERSARIES

JULY TO SEPTEMBER

Congratulations to the following personnel celebrating Service Anniversaries during the 4th quarter

### 35 YEARS

Henry W. Pelekai

### 20 YEARS

James F. DeMello  
Dudley J. Dias  
Daryl A. Evangelista  
Kennard Y. T. Kong  
Kenneth J. Krumm  
Carl K. Matsuura  
Wendell D. Soo  
John J. Whalen  
John K. Yoshimoto Jr.



### 15 YEARS

Patrick H. Among  
Brian A. Derby  
Peter L. Finnegan  
Shermiah K. Iaea III  
Aaron K. Kane  
George K. Kaopuiki  
Richard J. Karasaki Jr.  
Brian K. Mactagone  
Albert K. T. Mahoe  
Norbert K. Pokini  
Willis D. Sanchez  
Kelly J. Scullion  
Alexander M. Silva Jr.  
Paul R. Stankiewicz  
Frank R. Supranovich  
Mark N. Takahata  
Gary K. Viel  
Gordon A. K. Villa  
Debbie L. Wayman  
Kalani H. Wilmington  
Keith T. Yasui  
Nolan J. Zoller

### 10 YEARS

Kurt M. Yamaguchi

## PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to the following personnel who were promoted during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter:

### FIRE FIGHTER IIIs

May 18, 19, 20, 2004

John K. K. Collins, Jr.  
Brian P. Coughlin  
Sheldon K. Hao

Keith T. Kanno  
Patrick A. K. Keawe  
Ryan K. Maeda  
Leroy J. Mullettner  
Bradlee N. Okemura  
Michael K. Pangilinan  
Shannon K. Parker  
Garwin K. Souza  
Carlton K. Yamada  
Patrick A. Young

## R E T I R E M E N T S

### Ernest T. Pablo - Fire Fighter I

June 1, 1969 - April 30, 2004

### Allan D. L. Wong - Fire Fighter III

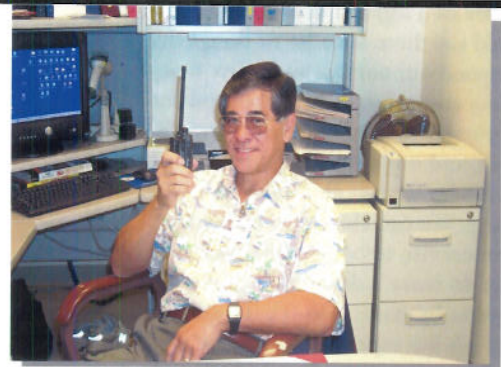
August 1, 1977 - June 30, 2004

## CIVILIAN CORNER

### CALVIN SAITO

#### RADIO ENGINEER

BY FIRE CAPTAIN JERRY SPENCER



Radio Engineer Calvin Saito came to the HFD in 1977 as a Radio Technician. While working in J.C. Penney's TV repair shop, Calvin applied for a position with the Board of Water Supply where he took a written exam and met the minimum requirements of a Federal Communication Commission's license. He was hired by the HFD instead and has remained with us for the past 27 years.

Calvin's responsibilities include the design and management of HFD's radio system as well as radio systems for other city departments such as Environmental Services and Facility Maintenance. He likes working for HFD and appreciates the prestige that comes with working for an organization such as ours. What doesn't Calvin like? "I don't like the red tape. It slows things down and ties our hands."

Happily married, Calvin enjoys computer programming, jogging, and occasionally going to the movies. He says, "Troy is a good movie to see."

## LAST ALARM

### Fire Captain Roland Wun Chee Char

April 18, 2004

Appointed August 22, 1951 - 26 years

Last Assignment - Engine 15

### Fire Fighter I Benjamin K. Nihipali

June 7, 2004

Appointed August 22, 1951 - 24 years

